Thomas M. Lenney (TML 2867) ARSENEAULT, WHIPPLE, FARMER, FASSETT & AZZARELLO, LLP 560 Main Street Chatham, New Jersey 07928 (973) 635-3366 Attorneys for Plaintiff

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

CHARLES PROVINI,

Plaintiff,

v.

PARADIGM GLOBAL ADVISORS, LLC,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.:

**COMPLAINT** 

Plaintiff Charles Provini (hereinafter "Provini"), by way of Complaint against the above-named defendant, alleges as follows:

### **PARTIES**

- 1. Provini is, and at all times relevant to the claims set forth herein was, a resident of the State of New Jersey residing at 47 Club Way, Red Bank, New Jersey.
- 2. Defendant Paradigm Global Advisors, LLC (hereinafter "Paradigm") upon information and belief, is, and at all times relevant to the claims set forth herein was, a Delaware limited liability company whose principal office is located at 650 Fifth Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action based on diversity and amount in controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 4. Venue is properly laid in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) and (c).
- 5. Paradigm is the asset allocation and investment advisory arm of the Paradigm Group of Companies, a worldwide hedge fund conglomerate. Paradigm is a Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment advisor and also is registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") as a Commodity Pool Operator and Commodity Trading Advisor and is a member of the U.S. National Futures Association.
- 6. Paradigm does business throughout the United States as well as extensively in Europe. The majority of Paradigm's clients come from selling arrangements with firms in Ohio, Texas and Italy. Moreover, Paradigm has a selling agreement with the Concord Equity Group, an asset management company principally located at 100 Matawan Road, Matawan, New Jersey. Paradigm has marketed to this database extensively.
- 7. Paradigm also markets and sells a multi-strategy fund, an SEC registered product, through a sales force located in New Jersey.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Paradigm consists of three principles or control persons: Hunter Biden, James B. Biden and James M. Park.

- 9. Upon information and belief, Hunter Biden has a primary residence located at 4829 Loughboro Road, Washington, D.C. 20016-3454.
- 10. Upon information and belief, James B. Biden has a primary residence located at 200 Trianon Lane, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.
- 11. Upon information and belief, James M. Park has a primary residence located at 550 Lowell Street, Lexington, Massachusetts. 02420-1919.

# FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

- 12. On January 10, 2007 Provini entered into a written contract of employment with Paradigm, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference. ("the Contract").
- 13. Pursuant to the Contract, as compensation for his services, Provini was to receive a salary at the monthly rate of \$15,000.00 less applicable taxes and withholdings, payable in accordance with Paradigm's normal payroll practices.
- 14. The Contract further provided that if neither party terminated the agreement by June 1, 2007, the monthly rate would be increased to \$40,000.00.
- 15. The Contract commenced on January 10, 2007 and Provini was paid accordingly. Neither party terminated the Contract by June 1, 2007 and Provini's monthly rate of compensation was increased to \$40,000.00.
- 16. Paradigm terminated Provini from his employment effective February 10,2008.
- 17. The Contract stated, after June 1, 2007, if Provini was terminated, Paradigm would be responsible for continuing the monthly payments to Provini for a period of three (3) years.

- 18. On or about March 14, 2008, Provini, by and through legal counsel, made demand for continuous payment pursuant to the Contract as well as for reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$39,674.13 incurred in the course of his employment with Paradigm.
- 19. To date, Paradigm has failed to respond to Provini's demand for payment and reimbursement and has not made any further payments to Provini beyond the February, 2008 monthly payment.
- 20. Paradigm currently owes Provini under the Contract the total sum of \$919,674.13.

#### **COUNT ONE**

- 21. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 20 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 22. The Contract by and between Provini and Paradigm called for Paradigm to pay Provini a monthly payment of \$40,000.00 for a period of three (3) years.
- 23. Paradigm has wrongfully refused to make payment to Provini under the Contract, there being a balance due and owing of \$919,674.13.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Charles Provini demands judgment against Defendant Paradigm Global Advisors, LLC in the amount of \$919,674.13, plus interest, costs of suit, and all other relief the court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT TWO**

24. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 25. On or about January 10, 2007, Provini and Paradigm entered into a valid and binding contract of employment.
- 26. Paradigm was required to pay Provini under the Contract a monthly payment of \$40,000.00 for a period of three (3) years.
- 27. Paradigm wrongfully breached the Contract by failing to pay Provini compensation beyond February, 2008.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Charles Provini demands judgment against Defendant Paradigm Global Advisors, LLC in the amount of \$919,674.13, plus interest, costs of suit, and all other relief the court deems just and proper.

# **COUNT THREE**

- 28. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 29. Paradigm owed an implied duty of good faith and fair dealing to Provini under the Contract.
- 30. Paradigm breached the duty of good faith and fair dealing to Provini by inappropriately failing to pay Provini the agreed upon compensation.
  - 31. As a result of the conduct of Paradigm, Provini has been damaged.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Charles Provini demands judgment against Defendant Paradigm Global Advisors, LLC in the amount of \$919,674.13, plus interest, costs of suit, and all other relief the court deems just and proper.

# **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

ARSENEAULT, WHIPPLE, FARMER, FASSETT & AZZARELLO, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff Charles Provini

By: <u>s/Thomas M. Lenney</u>
Thomas M. Lenney (TML 2867)

Dated: June 12, 2008